

# THE JACOBS REPORT

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Assistant Democratic Floor Leader  
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release**  
**November 23, 2004**

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*Please note: this week's report is released early in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Senate is on break until November 29<sup>th</sup>. Please have a joyous and safe holiday celebration.*

## GRANHOLM WINS BIG WITH JOBS PACKAGE

### **GOP Oversight Stuns Everyone**

In a stunning development that unfolded like the wrapping on an early Christmas present, Governor Jennifer Granholm was able to sign a \$2 billion jobs investments package into law today without having to sign \$1 billion in Republican business tax cuts.

Originally, the jobs package was part of a November 3 bi-partisan agreement with GOP leaders. Republicans pulled out of the deal days later. House Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Novi), after huddling with West Michigan political influences, demanded that the Single Business Tax (SBT) be completely repealed as part of the package. Granholm said that a gradual reduction, not elimination, had been part of the deal. DeRoche said it wasn't. Republicans stuck to their guns despite the release of documents from the non-partisan Senate Fiscal Agency supporting Granholm's contention.

Last week, the Governor's jobs package was passed, but all the bills were tie-barred to Republican business tax elimination bills. If enacted, businesses would no longer pay taxes in Michigan (beginning in 2009), putting a large burden on individual tax payers. The governor threatened a massive veto, saying that the whole package was doomed if some sort of business tax wasn't salvaged.

Republicans didn't back down, but then something interesting happened: Democrats, in careful review of the bill package, realized that legislative Republicans failed to successfully link the two packages together.

The tie-bars were incorrectly applied and therefore did not accomplish the Republicans' intentions. The governor's legal team met with the Attorney General on the issue and concluded that the \$2 billion "21st Century Jobs Fund" only goes into effect if certain bills within the Single Business Tax (SBT) package were "enacted," or given public act numbers. So, every tax bill that was linked to the 21st Century Jobs Fund was signed into law.

The tax bills don't go into effect, however, because they were tie-barred to two vetoed bills.

In effect, Governor Granholm was able to sign the bills she liked while neutering the SBT sunset bills. Now the state can immediately begin the process of selling off \$400 million in future tobacco settlement payments to diversify the economy. Granholm, willing to entertain business tax cuts without total elimination, urged the GOP to send her some practical legislation. “They can fix the problem that they have created, she said. “They can enact bills that reflect the bipartisan agreement that we reached over two weeks ago. They need to get back to work and finish the job.”

The turn of events was a huge win for the Democratic governor, who appeared to have been painted into a corner by the Republican Legislature. Instead, she can claim victory under a massive jobs package that just may prove to be the hallmark of her first term.

## **BARBARA JORDAN HEALTH POLICY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

### **APPLICATIONS FOR 2006**

**Applications are Due January 9, 2006, for Summer 2006.**

**CONTACT: Jomo Kassaye, (202) 238-2385 or [hjscholars@howard.edu](mailto:hjscholars@howard.edu)**

The Kaiser Family Foundation's Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program brings talented African American, Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander college seniors and recent graduates to Washington, D.C., during which time the Scholars are placed in Congressional offices in order to learn first-hand how health policy is developed and implemented.

Through the nine-week program (May 23- July 28, 2006), Scholars will learn about federal legislative procedure and health policy issues, while further developing their critical thinking and leadership skills.

In addition to gaining experience in a Congressional office, Scholars participate in seminars and site visits to enhance their knowledge of health care issues.

Upon completion of the session, Scholars write and present a health policy research memo.

### **PURPOSE**

The Kaiser Family Foundation established the Scholars Program to honor the legacy of late U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who was a foundation Trustee, and to expand the pool of students of color interested in the field of health policy.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible candidates must be U.S. citizens who will be seniors or recent graduates of an accredited U.S. college or university in the fall of 2006. Currently enrolled law, medical, and graduate students are not eligible to apply. Successful applicants will show evidence of academic achievement and will demonstrate the following:

- \* Be a member of a population that is adversely affected by racial or ethnic health disparities; and

\* Have experience working in or with programs that address health disparities (e.g. local health departments, community health centers, inner city/ rural hospitals or organizations that conduct research on or develop policy related to health or healthcare disparities) or have done previous academic work (e.g. taken courses, written papers or participate in research projects) related to health disparities.

## **SELECTION**

Candidates are selected based on academic performance, demonstrated leadership potential, and interest in health policy.

A distinguished National Advisory Committee guides the program's highly competitive selection process and strives to select a class of Scholars who are academically, geographically, and culturally diverse.

## **COMPENSATION**

Scholars receive approximately \$7,000 in support, which includes a stipend, daily expense allowance, airfare, and lodging. While in Washington, D.C., Scholars reside at Howard University.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Application materials will be accepted starting November 1, 2005.

Please be advised that applications will be processed and reviewed as they are received.

## **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 9, 2006.**

Application forms and additional information about the Scholars Program are available online (<http://www.kff.org/about/jordanscholars.cfm>).

For further information, contact program manager Jomo Kassaye at (202) 238-2385 or [bjscholars@howard.edu](mailto:bjscholars@howard.edu).

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation dedicated to providing information and analysis on health care issues to policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public.

The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.  
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